DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 196 499 JC 810 044

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TITLE Greenfield Community College: A Follow-Up Survey (September 1979 and September 1980) [and] A Study of the Attrition at Greenfield Community College.
INSTITUTION Greenfield Community Coll., Mass.
PUB DATE Sep 80
NOTE 49p.

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Adults; Community Colleges; Dropout Attitudes; *Dropouts; *Enrollment Influences; Followup Studies; School Holding Power; *Student Characteristics; Student Educational Objectives; Two Year Colleges
IDENTIFIERS *No Shows; *Stopouts

ABSTRACT

Three follow-up surveys were conducted by Greenfield Community College (GCC) from 1979 through 1980 to determine selected information about: (1) "stopouts," that is, students who were enrolled in either a Spring or Fall semester, but who did not reenroll for the subsequent semester; and (2) persons who were accepted for admission, but who did not register for courses. In each of the surveys, both attrition groups were asked to indicate their activities and plans at the time of their application, their residence, sources of financial support, current activities and plans, desire for a GCC representative, and educational attainment. In addition, respondents were asked to rank the relative influence of several factors on their decision not to reenroll. These factors included deciding to attend another school, job conflicts, transportation difficulties, inadequate academic advising, personal problems, and dissatisfaction with the curriculum. The survey reports summarize data for students who were enrolled in the Fall semesters of 1978 and 1979 and the Spring semester of 1979 who did not enroll for the subsequent term, and for people who were accepted but did not register for Fall 1978, Spring 1979, Fall 1979, and Spring 1980. The implications of the surveys' findings are discussed. (JP)

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GREENFIELD COMMUNITY COLLEGE:

A FOLLOW-UP SURVEY [SEPTEMBER 1979 AND SEPTEMBER 1980 AND]

A STUDY OF THE ATTRITION AT GREENFIELD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Prepared by:

ROBERT D. DICARLO
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September 1980

JC 810 044

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GREENFIELD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A FOLLOW-UP SURVEY

-Students who were enrolled in Greenfield Community College's Day Division during the Fall Semester of 1978 and did not re-enroll in the Spring Semester of 1979.

- People who were accepted but did not register for courses in Greenfield Community College's Day Division for the Fall Semester of 1978.

- People who were accepted but did not register for courses in Greenfield Community College's Day Division for the Spring Semester of 1979.

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September, 1979

SUMMARY

10% of the Fall, 1978 non-returning students and Spring, 1979 no-shows switched to Greenfield Community College's Evening Division.

51% of the Fall, 1978 non-returning students plan to reapply to Greenfield Community College - either day or evening.

53% of the Fall, 1978 non-returning students were working either full or part time.

19% of the Fall, 1978 non-returning students were attending another school, either full or part time.

45% of the people who were accepted for the Fall Semester of 1978 and did not show, attended another school full time instead of GCC.

49% of the people who were accepted but did not enroll for the Fall Semester of 1978 came directly from high school and were primarily interested in earning an associate degree.

50% of the people who were accepted but did not enroll for the Spring Semester of 1979 were employed full time.

METHODOLOGY

The process of collecting the data was decided after several meetings with Nancy L. Goodwin, President; Donald Brown, Director of Admissions; Beryl Berndt, Registrar; and Robert DiCarlo, Director of Planning and Sponsored Research. Prior information and assistance were provided by Eleanor Goodman, Counselor; Margaret Campbell, Director of Financial Aid; and Robert Yacubian, Coordinator of Transfer and Placement.

A review of other similar studies combined with the experience of those persons mentioned in the previous paragraph, enabled Greenfield Community College to develop a questionnaire that was suitable to the clients/students that we serve.

The survey was designed to obtain information from three populations in two categories:

Non-Returning Students: Population #1. Students who were enrolled in the Fall Semester of 1978, but did not re-enroll in the Spring Semester of 1979 at GCC.

Withdrawn Students: Population #2. Those persons who applied and were accepted to Greenfield Community College in the Fall Semester of 1978, but did not enroll at the College at that time.

Population #3. Those persons who applied and were accepted to Greenfield Community College in the Spring Semester of 1979, but did not enroll at the College at that time.

A listing of each of the three populations was obtained from the Student Personnel Office, each person listed was mailed the survey instrument with a cover letter from the president. Several weeks after the first mailing

was sent out, a follow-up post card was mailed.

The latter part of this report summarizes the data on the total population sampled for each of the three groups, the percentage of returns, the number and percentage of enrollees and non-enrollees for each of the three groups, a comparative summary of each of the questions for each of the three groups, and some of the responses to open-ended questions.

SUMMARY OF TOTAL QUESTIONNAIRES SENT, RECEIVED, AND RETURNED

Population	Total Number Of Questionnaires Sent By Group	Number Of People Who Actually Received Questionnaires	% Who Received Questionnaires And Responded To The Survey	Number of Responses
Students who were enrolled in the fall semester of 1978, but did not register for the Spring Semester of 1979.	134	109	59.%	64
People who applied for and were accepted in the Fall Semester of 1978, but did not register.	325	290	23.%	66
People who applied for and were accepted in the Spring Semester of 1979, but did not register.	58	51	20.%	10

WHEN THE RESPONDENTS APPLIED TO GCC, THEY LIVED:			
	The students who were enrolled at GCC in the fall semester of 1978 and did not re-enroll in the spring semester of 1979 were:	The people who were accepted but did not register for courses at GCC in the:	
		Fall Semester of 1978.	Spring Semester of 1979.
a) With their parents	53 %	71 %	20 %
b) With friends or relatives	12 %	5.5 %	30 %
c) With wife/husband	18 %	13 %	30 %
d) Alone	17 %	10.5 %	20 %

THE SOURCE(S) OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE RESPONDENTS WAS IDENTIFIED AS:			
	The students who were enrolled at GCC in the fall semester of 1978 and did not re-enroll in the spring semester of 1979 were:	The people who were accepted but did not register for courses at GCC in the:	
		Fall Semester of 1978.	Spring Semester of 1979.
a) Self-supporting	58 %	50 %	60 %
b) Their parents	26 %	36 %	20 %
c) Their spouse	8 %	4 %	20 %
d) Other sources	8 %	10 %	0 %

THE RESPONDENTS WERE ASKED IF THEY WOULD LIKE A GCC REPRESENTATIVE:			
	The students who were enrolled at GCC in the fall semester of 1978 and did not re-enroll in the spring semester of 1979 were:	The people who were accepted but did not register for courses at GCC in the:	
		Fall Semester of 1978.	Spring Semester of 1979.
a) Mail them an application to re-apply	8.5 %	23.5 %	58 %
b) Call them to discuss your academic/career plans	12.5 %	14.0 %	28 %
c) Preferred not to have an application mailed of a GCC representative call them.	79 %	62.5 %	14 %

THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION OF THE RESPONDENTS WAS:			
	The students who were enrolled at GCC in the fall semester of 1978 and did not re-enroll in the spring semester of 1979 were:	The people who were accepted but did not register for courses at GCC in the:	
		Fall Semester of 1978.	Spring Semester of 1979.
a) High School	59 %	87 %	70 %
b) Associate's Degree	29.5 %	6.5 %	20 %
c) Bachelor's Degree	11.5 %	6.5 %	10 %
d) Master's Degree or Above	0 %	0 %	0 %

WHEN THE RESPONDENTS COMPLETED THE QUESTIONNAIRES, THEY WERE:			
	The students who were enrolled at GCC in the fall semester of 1978 and did not re-enroll in the spring semester of 1979 were:	The people who were accepted but did not register for courses at GCC in the:	
		Fall Semester of 1978.	Spring Semester of 1979.
a) Attending GCC's Evening Division.	9.5 %	2 %	10 %
b) Attending another school part time	4 %	1 %	10 %
c) Attending another school full time	14.5 %	44.5 %	10 %
d) Working part-time	23 %	23 %	10 %
e) Working full-time	30 %	20 %	40 %
f) In the military	1 %	1 %	0 %
g) Neither working nor attending school	18 %	9.5 %	20 %

WHEN THE RESPONDENTS COMPLETED THE QUESTIONNAIRES, THEIR PLANS WERE:			
	The students who were enrolled at GCC in the fall semester of 1978 and did not re-enroll in the spring semester of 1979 were:	The people who were accepted but did not register for courses at GCC in the:	
		Fall Semester of 1978.	Spring Semester of 1979.
a) To reapply at GCC during the day or evening	51 %	35 %	90 %
b) To apply or already apply at another school	26 %	30 %	10 %
c) To enroll at another school	23 %	35 %	0 %

WHEN THE RESPONDENTS APPLIED TO GCC, THEY WERE:			
	The students who were enrolled at GCC in the fall semester of 1978 and did not re-enroll in the spring semester of 1979 were:	The people who were accepted but did not register for courses at GCC in the:	
		Fall Semester of 1978.	Spring Semester of 1979.
a) Attending High School	31 %	49 %	10 %
b) Employed full-time	24 %	18.5 %	50 %
c) Employed part-time	23 %	15.5 %	20 %
d) Unemployed	11 %	10.5 %	10 %
e) In the military service	0 %	0 %	0 %
f) Attending another college	2.5 %	.5 %	0 %
g) Other	8.5 %	2 %	10 %

WHEN THE RESPONDENTS APPLIED OR WERE IN ATTENDANCE AT GCC, THEIR PLANS WERE:			
	The students who were enrolled at GCC in the fall semester of 1978 and did not re-enroll in the spring semester of 1979 were:	The people who were accepted but did not register for courses at GCC in the:	
		Fall Semester of 1978.	Spring Semester of 1979.
a) To take individual courses of interest, but to earn no degree.	20 %	4 %	30 %
b) To take courses related to their job, but to earn no degree.	2.5 %	1 %	10 %
c) To earn a certificate	6.5 %	10 %	0 %
d) To earn an Associate Degree	45 %	65.5 %	30 %
e) Uncertain	26 %	19.5 %	30 %

Summary of the Data on what factors played a role in an applicant's/student's decision not to enroll/re-enroll at Greenfield Community College for the population who were:

#1 Enrolled in Greenfield Community College during the fall semester of 1978 but did not re-enroll in Greenfield Community College the spring semester of 1979.

	Unimportant	Slightly Important	Important	Very Important	Did not Apply
1. They decided to attend another school.	8 %	4 %	2 %	15 %	71 %
2. The program that they needed/wanted was not offered at GCC.	8 %	7 %	9 %	18 %	58 %
3. They encountered financial difficulties.	8 %	14 %	13 %	23 %	42 %
4. They got a job.	10 %	8 %	13 %	21 %	48 %
5. The requirements of their job interfered with their college plans.	12 %	10 %	13 %	14 %	51 %
6. They had difficulty arranging transportation.	17 %	15 %	8 %	10 %	50 %
7. Their family situation underwent a significant change (such as loss or illness of parent, change in marital status, or addition of child).	17 %	2 %	5 %	6 %	70 %
8. The academic advising during registration at GCC was inadequate.	18 %	8 %	0 %	4 %	70 %
9. Could not work out an acceptable schedule of classes.	13 %	8 %	12 %	0 %	67 %
10. Uncertain career/educational objectives.	6 %	6 %	18 %	11 %	59 %
11. They entered the military service.	10 %	5 %	6 %	0 %	79 %
12. Health interfered with their plans.	10 %	2 %	4 %	7 %	77 %
13. Their family moved out of town.	10 %	5 %	0 %	0 %	85 %

Summary of the Data on what factors played a role in an applicant's/student's decision not to enroll/re-enroll at Greenfield Community College for the population who were:

#2 Accepted at Greenfield Community College for the fall semester of 1978 but did not register.

	Unimportant	Slightly Important	Important	Very Important	Did not Apply
1. They decided to attend another school.	14 %	4 %	10 %	39 %	33 %
2. The program that they needed/wanted was not offered at GCC.	17 %	4 %	15 %	20 %	44 %
3. They encountered financial difficulties.	23 %	12 %	9 %	20 %	36 %
4. They got a job.	24 %	4 %	17 %	11 %	44 %
5. The requirements of their job interfered with their college plans.	28 %	6 %	9 %	12 %	45 %
6. They had difficulty arranging transportation.	29 %	8 %	10 %	12 %	41 %
7. Their family situation underwent a significant change (such as loss or illness of parent, change in marital status, or addition of child).	22 %	9 %	4 %	19 %	46 %
8. The academic advising during registration at GCC was inadequate.	30 %	10 %	9 %	0 %	51 %
9. Could not work out an acceptable schedule of classes.	40 %	5 %	5 %	9 %	41 %
10. Uncertain career/educational objectives.	24 %	14 %	9 %	13 %	40 %
11. They entered the military service.	28 %	0 %	2 %	0 %	70 %
12. Health interfered with their plans.	29 %	2 %	0 %	4 %	65 %
13. Their family moved out of town.	24 %	0 %	0 %	2 %	74 %

Summary of the Data on what factors played a role in an applicant's/student's decision not to enroll/re-enroll at Greenfield Community College for the population who were:

#3 Accepted at Greenfield Community College for the spring semester of 1979 but did not register.

	Unimportant	Slightly Important	Important	Very Important	Did not Apply
1. They decided to attend another school.	15 %	0 %	15 %	10 %	60 %
2. The program that they needed/wanted was not offered at GCC.	12 %	6 %	6 %	18 %	58 %
3. They encountered financial difficulties.	19 %	9 %	19 %	24 %	29 %
4. They got a job.	10 %	0 %	16 %	16 %	58 %
5. The requirements of their job interfered with their college plans.	21 %	11 %	10 %	5 %	53 %
6. They had difficulty arranging transportation.	60 %	18 %	5 %	18 %	53 %
7. Their family situation underwent a significant change (such as loss or illness of parent, change in marital status, or addition of child).	20 %	5 %	0 %	5 %	70 %
8. The academic advising during registration at GCC was inadequate.	31 %	0 %	6 %	0 %	63 %
9. Could not work out an acceptable schedule of classes.	20 %	11 %	0 %	0 %	67 %
10. Uncertain career/educational objectives.	21 %	11 %	3 %	10 %	53 %
11. They entered the military service.	20 %	0 %	5 %	5 %	70 %
12. Health interfered with their plans.	16 %	0 %	0 %	11 %	73 %
13. Their family moved out of town.	26 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	74 %

MAJOR REASONS FOR NOT ATTENDING OR NOT RETURNING TO G.C.C.

- *FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES*
- *GOT A JOB*
- *ATTENDED ANOTHER SCHOOL*
- *PROGRAM NOT OFFERED*
- *UNCERTAIN CAREER / EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES*
- *TRANSPORTATION*
- *JOB INTERFERENCE*
- *SCHEDULING*

Summary Of The Educational Institutions That The Respondents Were Enrolled In At The Time They Completed Their Questionnaire

Schools	Enrolled in Fall '78 Didn't Re-enroll	Applied For Fall '78 Didn't Register	Applied For Spring '79 Didn't Register
Berkshire Community College	1	3	
Bridgewater State College		2	
Cape Cod Community College		1	
Connecticut School of Broadcasting	1		
Elms College		2	
Fitchburg State College		1	
Greenfield Community College	1		1
Holyoke Community College		5	
Keene State College			1
Massachusetts College of Art		1	
McCann Regional Voc. Tech. School		1	
Middlesex Community College	1		
Mitchell College		1	
Mount Ida Junior College		1	
New Mexico State University	1		
Norwich University		1	
Pennsylvania State College	1		
Roger Williams College		4	
Springfield Tech. Community College		4	
Stone Hill College		1	
University of Massachusetts	5	9	1
Western New England College		1	
Westfield State College		2	
Worcester State College		1	

Summary Of The Education Plans Of The Respondents
During The Time They Completed
Their Questionnaires

Schools	Enrolled in Fall '78 Didn't Re-enroll	Applied For Fall '78 Didn't Register	Applied For Spring '79 Didn't Register
Berkshire Community College		1	
Bridgewater State College		1	
Cape Cod Community College		2	
Cornell College	1		
Elms College		2	
Emerson College	1		
Greenfield Community College	1		
Holyoke Community College	1	5	
Keene State College			1
Massachusetts College of Art		1	
New Hampshire College	1		
Norwich University		1	
Roger Williams College		1	
Smith College	1		
Southeastern Mass. University		1	
University of Massachusetts	9	9	1
University of Vermont		1	
Westfield State College		3	

SUMMARY OF TOTAL NUMBER AND PERCENTAGES OF NON-RETURNEES,
AND NON-REGISTEREES BY PROGRAM

	Students Enrolled in the Fall Semester of 1979			People who applied for the Fall Semester of 1978:			People who applied for the Spring Semester of 1979:		
	Total Number	% Who did register for the Spring Semester of 1979.	% Who did not register for the Spring Semester of 1979.	Total Number	% Who Registered	% Who did not register	Total Number	% Who Registered	% Who did not Register.
Art	71	92 %	8 %	54	65 %	35 %	15	73 %	27 %
Graphic Design	46	85 %	15 %	29	72 %	28 %	12	83 %	17 %
Audio-Visual Media	50	78 %	22 %	32	88 %	12 %	12	83 %	17 %
Accounting	55	84 %	16 %	47	66 %	33 %	11	91 %	9 %
Management-Business	95	81 %	19 %	75	79 %	24 %	21	76 %	24 %
Management Data Processing	17	94 %	6 %	22	68 %	32 %	2	50 %	50 %
Marketing	20	95 %	5 %	22	55 %	45 %	4	100 %	0 %
Executive Secretary	48	94 %	6 %	43	63 %	37 %	15	87 %	13 %
Medical Secretary	31	90 %	10 %	28	71 %	29 %	3	100 %	0 %
Legal Secretary	27	93 %	7 %	18	78 %	22 %	2	100 %	0 %
General Secretary	0	0 %	0 %	0	0 %	0 %	0	0 %	0 %
Office Assistant	11	82 %	18 %	10	90 %	10 %	1	0 %	20 %
Word Processing	0	0 %	0 %	-	0 %	0 %	1	100 %	0 %
Typing Proficiency	0	0 %	0 %	-	0 %	0 %	0	0 %	0 %
Secretarial Update	0	0 %	0 %	-	0 %	0 %	0	0 %	0 %
Civil Engineering	24	79 %	21 %	3	0 %	0 %	2	100 %	0 %
Engineering	25	76 %	24 %	24	92 %	8 %	5	60 %	40 %
Industrial Engineering	6	83 %	17 %	6	67 %	33 %	5	100 %	0 %
Environmental Science	0	0 %	0 %	0	0 %	0 %	0	0 %	0 %
Nursing	96	97 %	3 %	137	66 %	34 %	0	0 %	0 %
Recreation	80	85 %	15 %	56	66 %	34 %	13	85 %	15 %
Criminal Justice	72	93 %	6 %	54	74 %	26 %	10	90 %	10 %
Early Childhood Education	94	85 %	15 %	69	71 %	29 %	11	82 %	18 %
Basic Early Childhood Education	0	0 %	0 %	-	0 %	0 %	1	100 %	0 %
Fire Science	5	100 %	0 %	5	60 %	40 %	0	0 %	0 %
Fire Science Certificate	0	0 %	0 %	0	0 %	0 %	0	0 %	0 %
Liberal Arts	464	81 %	19 %	344	78 %	22 %	150	81 %	19 %
Liberal Arts-Business Concentration	0	0 %	0 %	0	0 %	0 %	0	0 %	0 %
Liberal Arts-Math Science Concentration	0	0 %	0 %	0	0 %	0 %	2	100 %	0 %
Liberal Arts-Data Processing	10	50 %	50 %	10	60 %	40 %	8	75 %	25 %
Homesteading in the 20th Century	0	0 %	0 %	-	0 %	0 %	0	0 %	0 %
Special	32	47 %	53 %	29	83 %	17 %	39	95 %	5 %
No Major	0								
TOTALS	1,379			1,117			345		

SUMMARY OF THE EMPLOYER INFORMATION

Of the information that was listed by the respondents on full or part-time employment, there was a total of 60 different employers some of which were employing more than one respondent for the combined three groups. The places of employment ranged from hospitals, nursing homes, retail establishments, government agencies, social service agencies, insurance companies, advertising agencies, newspapers, manufacturers, technical and mechanical establishments, and others.

SUMMARY OF STUDENT RESPONSES

The following are direct quotes:

1. "... college credits being given for high school courses."
2. "Hoping you might have a course that would apply to the type of work I do." (Water polution control)
3. "You should not have dropped Civil Engineering Technology."
4. "Could benefit from offerings in grant writing, resume development, and/or creating one's own job."
5. "I need help to go back to school financially."
6. "Attending school, working part-time and doing homework took too much of my time."
7. "Please send me a list of evening courses."
8. "More courses offered that I will need to receive my B.S. in Nursing."
9. "It was my hope to pursue a degree in Equestrine Studies, which is not offered."

10. "Never once received adequate guidance."
11. "Courses taker should not require credits when only taken for personal satisfaction."
12. "... needed assistance with housing." (Would have considered GCC if you had apartments.)
13. "I liked Berkshire's field house."
14. ".. floors extremely slippery and dangerous. Elevators often do not work, making it difficult for a handicapped."
15. "Course description in T.V. Media was not specific enough as compared to STCC's."
16. "I wanted not to commute but to stay on campus."
17. "You didn't offer the major I was interested in."
18. "Could have been more helpful."

A STUDY OF THE ATTRITION AT GREENFIELD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A SURVEY OF THE:

-STUDENTS WHO WERE ENROLLED IN THE SPRING SEMESTER OF 1979 AND DID NOT RETURN IN THE FALL SEMESTER OF 1979.

-THE PEOPLE WHO WERE ACCEPTED BUT DID NOT REGISTER FOR COURSES AT GCC IN THE FALL OF 1979

PREPARED BY:

ROBERT DICARLO

DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH

INTRODUCTION

This is one in a series of data collection activities that have been implemented at Greenfield Community College since Nancy L. Goodwin became President in August of 1978. The following activities, when combined together, mark a new and comprehensive data collection, dissemination and implementation era for Greenfield Community College:

January of 1979 - The administration of the Community College Goals Inventory in conjunction with the Educational Testing Service of Princeton, New Jersey.

May of 1979 - A follow-up study of the graduates of GCC's Class of 1979.

July of 1979 - A follow-up study of student withdrawals and no-shows for the Fall of 1978 and Spring of 1979.

Those data collection efforts were used as a source of information that provided the data for decisions at a Retreat and Planning Session in July of 1979. At the retreat/planning session a group of twenty of Greenfield Community College's administrators, faculty and staff met at Stratton Mountain, Vermont for two days to develop a series of goals and objectives for the academic year 1979-1980.

During the current year the goals and objectives have been discussed, amended, some implemented, and others to be either implemented at the latter part of this year or included as part of next year's goals and objectives. At the next retreat/planning session scheduled for June of 1980, the goals and objectives implementation activities for the 1979-80 academic year will be put into a final end-of-the-year report and the retreat/planning session participants will develop goals and objectives for 1980-81.

The data collection effort and the purpose of this report are aimed at several things:

- To address and understand the nature of attrition.
- To gather data that can be utilized as a basis for decision making.
- To establish a base of data that can be used as trend data for comparative analysis.
- To establish, understand, and document any recurring behavioral patterns of the student body who may enter and exit from GCC prior to graduation.
- To develop internal mechanisms that will allow GCC to make rapid short range adjustments to immediate needs of students and long range forecasting procedures to project future student needs.

LIMITATIONS AND STRENGTHS OF THE REPORT

The data contained in this report is not meant to be analytical or prescriptive in nature. The purpose of this report is to provide a set of descriptive data that can be supplemented with each person's or task force's knowledge about the campus and to make decisions as part of the implementation of the goals and objectives that the college community is implementing this year,

There are a number of people and task forces who have been meeting to develop strategies designed to decrease the attrition of the student body of Greenfield Community College.

The data in this report can give those persons and task forces an indication as to the reasons why students choose to attend GCC. Some students are here to get a degree and others are not. To suggest that those who initially choose not to remain at GCC to complete their degree are dropouts is a misnomer. These people are not and should not be considered as "dropouts" in the traditional sense of the word. Instead they are people who may choose to come to GCC for a semester or two, exit from our system, take a break from the academic life and then return in the future, or possibly go to another institution of higher education as an extension of what they learned at GCC.

The term "dropout" can never be a satisfactory definition of those persons who exit from GCC before graduation. There is always a chance that that person may return to GCC and eventually get their degree. In some cases the term "stopouts" has been used to describe the non-graduates.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

While GCC has embarked on a course of data collection activities that establishes a base of data for comparison and analysis, we are working to make the college as responsive as possible to the changing needs and interests of the students.

With the implementation of goals and objectives this year, GCC has established itself as an educational institution that is managerially efficient and effective. This data collection effort, coupled with the use of the data by the college community, provides an environment that fosters sound and productive outcomes.

An assessment of these activities is yet another in this series of steps to make a determination as to the impact of the data for a more positive educational environment for our students. It is the educational environment that is the critical variable that can be modified to accommodate the aspirations, interests, and desires of our students.

Greenfield Community College is concerned with the attrition of our non-graduates who exit from our educational system prior to their completion of a degree. This report is an attempt to gather the data that will enable us to better understand the behavioral pattern of the "stopout."

SUMMARY OF TOTAL QUESTIONNAIRES SENT, RECEIVED, AND RETURNED

Population	Total Number of Questionnaires Sent by Group	% Who Received Questionnaires And Responded To the Survey	Number of Responses
Students who were enrolled in the Spring Semester of 1979 but did not register for the Fall Semester of 1979	332	10%	54
People who applied for and were accepted in the Fall of 1979 but did not register	67	20%	13

WHEN THE RESPONDENTS APPLIED TO GCC, THEY WERE:

	The students who were enrolled at GCC in the Spring Semester of 1979 and did not re-enroll in the Fall Semester of 1979 were:	The people who were accepted but did not register for courses at GCC in the Fall of 1979:
a) Attending High School	17.5 %	42.0 %
b) Employed full-time	22.0 %	25.5 %
c) Employed part-time	27.0 %	8.0 %
d) Unemployed	14.4 %	16.5 %
e) In the military service	4.8 %	----
f) Attending another college	4.8 %	----
g) Other	9.5%	8.0 %

WHEN THE RESPONDENTS APPLIED OR WERE IN ATTENDANCE AT GCC, THEIR PLANS WERE:

	The students who were enrolled at GCC in the Spring Semester of 1979 and did not re-enroll in the Fall Semester of 1979 were:	The people who were accepted but did not register for courses at GCC in the Fall of 1979:
a) To take individual courses of interest, but to earn no degree	31.0 %	----
b) To take courses related to their job, but to earn no degree	13.5 %	----
c) To earn a certificate	----	7.7 %
d) To earn an Associate Degree	42.5 %	77.0 %
e) Uncertain	13.0 %	15.3 %

WHEN THE RESPONDENTS APPLIED TO GCC, THEY LIVED:

	The students who were enrolled at GCC in the Spring Semester of 1979 and did not re-enroll in the Fall Semester of 1979 were:	The people who were accepted but did not register for courses at GCC in the Fall of 1979:
a) With their parents	44.8 %	43.0 %
b) With friends or relatives	10.2 %	7.0 %
c) With wife/husband	24.5 %	21.5 %
d) Alone	18.5 %	28.5 %
e) With their children	2.0 %	----

THE SOURCE(S) OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE RESPONDENTS WAS IDENTIFIED AS:

	The students who were enrolled at GCC in the Spring Semester of 1979 and did not re-enroll in the Fall Semester of 1979 were:	The people who were accepted but did not register for courses at GCC in the Fall of 1979:
a) Self-supporting	59.6 %	48.0 %
b) Their parents	19.5 %	23.6 %
c) Their spouse	14.5 %	14.2 %
d) Other sources	6.4 %	14.2 %

WHEN THE RESPONDENTS COMPLETED THE QUESTIONNAIRES, THEY WERE:

	The students who were enrolled at GCC in the Spring Semester of 1979 and did not re-enroll in the Fall Semester of 1979 were:	The people who were accepted but did not register for courses at GCC in the Fall of 1979:
a) Attending GCC's Evening Division	----	12.0 %
b) Attending another school	29.4 %	23.5 %
c) Working	60.3 %	58.5 %
d) Neither working nor attending school	10.3 %	6.0 %

WHEN THE RESPONDENTS COMPLETED THE QUESTIONNAIRES, THEIR PLANS WERE:

	The students who were enrolled at GCC in the Spring Semester of 1979 and did not re-enroll in the Fall Semester of 1979 were:	The people who were accepted but did not register for courses at GCC in the Fall of 1979:
a) To reapply at GCC during the day or evening	63.6 %	54.6 %
b) To apply or already apply at another school	13.6 %	36.4 %
c) To enroll at another school	22.8 %	9.0 %

THE RESPONDENTS WERE ASKED IF THEY WOULD LIKE A GCC REPRESENTATIVE:

	The students who were enrolled at GCC in the Spring Semester of 1979 and did not re-enroll in the Fall Semester of 1979 were:	The people who were accepted but did not register for courses at CCC for the Fall of 1979
a) Mail them an application to re-apply	10.0 %	20.0 %
b) Call them to discuss your academic/career plans	10.0 %	80.0 %
c) Preferred not to have an application mailed or a GCC representative call them	80.0 %	----

THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION OF THE RESPONDENTS WAS:

	The students who were enrolled at GCC in the Spring Semester of 1979 and did not re-enroll in the Fall Semester of 1979 were:	The people who were accepted but did not register for courses at GCC in the Fall of 1979:
a) High School	48.8 %	91.6 %
b) Associate's Degree	38.0 %	8.4 %
c) Bachelor's Degree	8.8 %	----
d) Master's Degree or Above	4.4 %	----

Accepted at Greenfield Community College for the Fall Semester of 1979 but did not register

	Unimportant	Slightly Important	Important	Very Important	Did not Apply
1. I decided to attend another school	-	-	30.0 %	10.0 %	60.0 %
2. The program that I need/want is not offered at GCC	-	-	10.0 %	-	90.0 %
3. I encountered financial difficulties	-	-	20.0 %	30.0 %	50.0 %
4. I got a job	10.0 %	20.0 %	10.0 %	30.0 %	30.0 %
5. The requirements of my job interfered with my college plans	9.0 %	9.0 %	-	18.2 %	63.8 %
6. I had difficulty arranging transportation	-	30.0 %	-	10.0 %	60.0 %
7. My family situation underwent a significant change (such as loss or illness of parent, change in marital status, or addition of child)	-	-	33.5 %	22.0 %	44.5 %
8. My academic advising during registration at GCC was inadequate	11.1 %	11.1 %	-	-	77.8 %
9. I could not work out an acceptable schedule of classes	-	22.2 %	-	-	77.8 %
10. Uncertain career/educational objectives	-	20.0 %	20.0 %	-	60.0 %
11. I entered the military service	-	-	-	-	100.0 %
12. Health interfered with my plans	-	-	-	-	100.0 %
13. My family moved out of town	-	-	-	-	100.0 %

Enrolled in Greenfield Community College during the Spring Semester of 1979 but did not re-enroll in Greenfield Community College the Fall Semester of 1979

	Unimportant	Slightly Important	Important	Very Important	Did not Apply
1. I decided to attend another school	19.5 %	6.5 %	4.5 %	19.5 %	50.0 %
2. The program that I wanted is not offered at GCC	6.9 %	2.5 %	6.9 %	25.5 %	58.2 %
3. I encountered financial difficulties	24.0 %	13.0 %	4.5 %	8.5 %	50.0 %
4. I got a job	22.7 %	2.2 %	11.5 %	15.9 %	47.7 %
5. The requirements of my job interfered with my college plans	25.0 %	2.5 %	5.0 %	2.5 %	65.0 %
6. I had difficulty arranging transportation	34.0 %	7.5 %	-	2.5 %	56.0 %
7. My family situation underwent a significant change (such as loss or illness of parent, change in marital status, or addition of child)	22.5 %	6.6 %	6.6 %	6.6 %	57.7 %
8. My academic advising at GCC was inadequate	17.5 %	5.0 %	10.0 %	5.0 %	62.5 %
9. I could not work out an acceptable schedule of classes	14.2 %	9.5 %	7.1 %	14.5 %	54.7 %
10. Uncertain career/educational objectives	11.6 %	2.5 %	11.6 %	13.9 %	60.4 %
11. I entered the military service	12.5 %	-	2.5 %	5.0 %	80.0 %
12. Health interfered with my plans	13.0 %	-	-	5.0 %	82.0 %
13. My family moved out of town	12.5 %	-	-	2.5 %	85.0 %
14. I was dissatisfied with local housing	12.0 %	-	-	2.5 %	85.5 %

GREENFIELD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A FOLLOW-UP SURVEY

- Students who were enrolled in Greenfield Community College's Day Division during the Fall Semester of 1979 and did not re-enroll in the Spring Semester of 1980.

- People who were accepted but did not register for courses in Greenfield Community College's Day Division for the Spring Semester of 1980.

Prepared by:

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Director of Planning and Research

September, 1980

INTRODUCTION

This report provides information as a data source that will assist Greenfield Community College to continually identify the reasons why some students do not return to GCC and why others do not enroll at GCC once they have applied and were accepted.

GCC has begun to implement changes necessary to decrease the attrition level at the college. The type of data in this report, along with other information sources, have been utilized by the college constituency in the development of institutional goals and objectives that have resulted in changes in the services that are provided to the students. These services are critical to the college in its attempt to establish and maintain acceptable levels of attrition.

Some of the changes that have occurred at GCC in its attempt to solve the attrition issue have been:

-Changes in the scheduling pattern

-A complete curriculum analysis

-Changes of existing and the development of new curricula

-A variety of advising and counseling revisions

-An expansion in the number of quality of student services

Many other changes have occurred at GCC in the area of organizational development due to new perspectives that have developed with the use of data that was utilized to understand the effect that GCC has upon its students.

The report presents information in a summary fashion that identifies some of the factors that contribute to a student's reason for not enrolling or re-enrolling at GCC. The data is presented in the following tables.

INFORMATION ON POPULATION SURVEYED

	Questionnaires Mailed	% of Responses	Number of Responses
Students who were Enrolled in GCC's Fall Semester of 1979 and did not Re-enroll in the Spring Semester of 1980	149	24 %	35
People who were Accepted but did not Register for Courses in GCC in the Spring Semester of 1980	33	27 %	9

WHEN THE RESPONDENTS APPLIED TO GCC, THEY LIVED:

	The students who were enrolled at GCC in the Fall Semester of 1979 and did not re-enroll in the Spring Semester of 1980 were:	The people who were accepted but did not register for courses at GCC in the Spring Semester of 1980
a) With their parents	40.0 %	-
b) With friends or relatives	11.6	30.0 %
c) With wife/husband	14.2	40.0
d) Alone	34.2	10.0
e) With their children	-	20.0

SOURCE(S) OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE RESPONDENTS

	The students who were enrolled at GCC in the Fall Semester of 1979 and did not re-enroll in the Spring Semester of 1980 were:	The people who were accepted but did not register for courses at GCC in the Spring Semester of 1980
a) Self-supporting	56.0 %	69.2 %
b) Their parents	20.0	-
c) Their spouse	6.0	15.4
d) Other sources	18.0	15.4

DID THE RESPONDENTS WANT A GCC REPRESENTATIVE TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEM

	The students who were enrolled at GCC in the Fall Semester of 1979 and did not re-enroll in the Spring Semester of 1980 were:	The people who were accepted but did not register for courses at GCC in the Spring Semester of 1980:
a) Mail them an application to reapply	33.5 %	14.2 %
b) Call them to discuss your academic/career plans	33.5	14.2
c) Preferred not to have an application mailed or a GCC representative call them	33.0	71.6

THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION OF THE RESPONDENTS

	The students who were enrolled at GCC in the Fall Semester of 1979 and did not re-enroll in the Spring Semester of 1980 were:	The people who were accepted but did not register for courses at GCC in the Spring Semester of 1980:
a) High School	68.7 %	87.5
b) Associate's Degree	18.8	--
c) Bachelor's Degre	12.5	--
d) Master's Degree or above	-	12.5

WHAT THE RESPONDENTS WERE DOING WHEN THEY APPLIED TO GCC

	The students who were enrolled at GCC in the Fall Semester of 1979 and did not re-enroll in the Spring Semester of 1980 were:	The people who were accepted but did not register for courses at GCC in the Spring Semester of 1980:
a) Attending high school	16.0 %	10.0 %
b) Employed full-time	25.0	36.0
c) Employed part-time	29.5	18.0
d) Unemployed	11.3	18.0
e) In the military service	-	-
f) Attending another college	2.[illegible]	-
g) Other	16.0	18.0

THE PLANS OF THE RESPONDENTS WHEN THEY APPLIED OR WERE IN ATTENDANCE AT GCC

	The students who were enrolled at GCC in the Fall Semester of 1979 and did not re-enroll in the Spring Semester of 1980 were:	The people who were accepted but did not register for courses at GCC in the Spring Semester of 1980:
a) To take individual courses of interest, but to earn no degree	15.5 %	11.1 %
b) To take courses related to their job, but to earn no degree	7.7	-
c) To earn a certificate	5.0	-
d) To earn an Associate Degree	59.0	77.8
e) Uncertain	12.8	11.1

WHAT RESPONDENTS WERE DOING WHEN THEY COMPLETED THE QUESTIONNAIRE

	The students who were enrolled at GCC in the Fall Semester of 1979 and did not re-enroll in the Spring Semester of 1980 were:	The people who were accepted but did not register for courses at GCC in the Spring Semester of 1980
a) Attending GCC's Evening Division	3.2 %	18.3 %
b) Attending another school	6.2	9.0
c) Working	71.8	45.5
d) Neither working nor attending school	15.6	27.2
e) In the military service	3.2	-

PLANS OF RESPONDENTS WHEN THEY COMPLETED THE QUESTIONNAIRE

	The students who were enrolled at GCC in the Fall Semester of 1979 and did not re-enroll in the Spring Semester of 1980 were:	The people who were accepted but did not register for courses at GCC in the Spring Semester of 1980:
a) To reapply at GCC during the day or evening	64.8 %	66.7 %
b) To apply or have already applied at another school	17.6	11.1
c) To enroll at another school	17.6	11.1
D) To work	-	11.1

Summary of the data on what factors played a role in an applicant's/student's decision not to re-enroll at Greenfield Community College for the population who were:

Enrolled in Greenfield Community College during the Fall Semester of 1979 but did not re-enroll in Greenfield Community College the Spring Semester of 1980

	Unimportant	Slightly Important	Important	Very Important	Did not Apply
1. They decided to attend another school	-	12.5%	4.2%	12.5%	70.8%
2. The program that they needed/wanted was not offered at GCC	9.0%	-	4.5	13.5	73.0
3. They encountered financial difficulties	6.8	6.8	21.0	34.4	31.0
4. They got a job	5.5	33.6	5.5	27.7	27.7
5. The requirements of their job interfered with their college plans	7.6	11.6	11.6	30.7	38.5
6. They had difficulty arranging transportation	23.8	-	9.5	9.5	57.2
7. Their family situation underwent a significant change (such as loss or illness of parent, change in marital status, or addition of child)	10.0	-	5.0	20.0	65.0
8. The academic advising during registration at GCC was inadequate	17.5	-	4.5	8.5	69.5
9. Could not work out an acceptable schedule of classes	15.8	5.2	10.5	5.2	63.3
10. Uncertain career/educational objectives	8.0	12.0	8.0	20.0	52.0
11. They entered the military service	20.0	-	-	-	80.0
12. Health interfered with their plans	12.6	-	-	16.6	70.8
13. My family moved out of town	9.5	-	4.8	4.8	80.9
14. I was dissatisfield with local housing	13.8	9.0	4.6	13.6	59.0

Summary of the data on what factors played a role in an applicant's/student's decision not to enroll at Greenfield Community College for the population who were:

Accepted at Greenfield Community College for the Spring Semester of 1980 but did not register

	Unimportant	Slightly Important	Important	Very Important	Did not Apply
1. They decided to attend another school	12.5%	-	-	-	87.5%
2. The program that they needed/wanted was not offered at GCC	25.0	12.5%	-	25.0%	37.5
3. They encountered financial difficulties	-	16.6	-	66.8	16
4. They got a job	33.3	-	-	33.3	33.4
5. The requirements of their job interfered with their college plans	14.3	14.3	14.3%	14.3	42.8
6. They had difficulty arranging transportation	28.5	-	-	43.0	28.5
7. Their family situation underwent a significant change (such as loss or illness of parent, change in marital status, or addition of child)	16.6	-	-	33.4	50.0
8. The academic advising during registration at GCC was inadequate	20.0	-	-	-	80.0
9. Could not work out an acceptable schedule of classes.	25.0	-	-	-	75.0
10. Uncertain career/educational objectives	20.0	40.0	-	40.0	-
11. They entered the military service	20.0	-	-	-	80.0
12. Health interfered with my plans	16.7	-	-	16.7	66.6
13. My family moved out of town	16.7	-	-	16.7	66.6

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JAN 30 1981